

General Guidelines and Etiquette for Radio Use by Cooperators

- Use only narrow-band radios on BLM frequencies
- Determine local BLM tactical, repeater and command frequencies and program radios accordingly. Authorized cooperators responding to an ongoing incident may program emergency frequencies in their radios for the duration of the incident, but must remove the frequencies when the incident is over. A memorandum of understanding with the local BLM office is necessary to authorize the retention of the frequencies on a permanent basis. RFD's are encouraged to discuss this matter with local BLM fire management staff.
- Listen for radio traffic before transmitting
- Know what you are going to say before pressing the Push-to-Talk button
- After pressing the Push-To-Talk button, pause briefly (one second) and then speak into the microphone.
- Speak clearly
- Use clear text (do not use ten-codes)
- Do not use foul language
- Keep radio traffic to a minimum
- Keep messages brief and concise
- When making a call, identify yourself, specify the unit you are calling, and identify the radio channel you are transmitting on. Example: "Division A, this is Operations, on Command".
- Clear the radio channel when you are finished: Example "Division A, clear"